

US Appln. No. 09/975,418
AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.312

REMARKS

Applicants hereby amend this allowed application to amend claims 1-10 and add new claims 18-31 directed to more specific embodiments of the invention that were disclosed in the application as filed. Claims 1-10 have been amended to replace the phrase "characterized in that" with "wherein" to better conform with standard U.S. practice and claim 7 has been amended to change "mean particle size" to "average particle size" for consistency with the language used in the specification at page 7, lines 26-27, and neither of these amendments has the effect of changing the meaning of or narrowing the scope of these claims. Note that the phrase "average particle size" is defined at page 4, lines 24-26, and this definition is consistent with the definition of "mean particle size" set forth at page 16, lines 9-13. Therefore, replacing "mean particle size" with "average particle size" does not have any effect on claim scope.

All the new claims, with the sole exception of claim 25, are dependent upon the original allowed claims and all the new claims 18-31 fall within the scope of the original allowed claims.

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Support for the subject matter of amended claim 7 and the new claims is as follows:

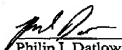
CLAIM NUMBER	SUPPORT IN SPECIFICATION
18 and 19	Page 4, lines 18-19
20	Page 4, lines 21-24
21	Page 4, line 27
7, 22 and 23	Page 7, lines 26-27
24	Page 5, lines 18-19
25 and 26	Page 4, lines 18-27; Page 5, lines 18-19; and Pages 14-16, Examples 1 to 4; (claims 25 and 26 also fall within the scope of original claims 4 and 16, respectively)
27	Page 5, line 30
28	Page 6, lines 1-2
29, 30 and 31	Page 6, lines 15-18

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This amendment does not expand the scope of the claimed invention or require further searching and does not introduce new matter into the application. Accordingly, entry is respectfully submitted to be proper.

If any points remain at issue which can best be resolved by way of a telephonic or personal interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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